

2008

CITY OF MILWAUKEE HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Annual Report

Letter from the Mayor

Protecting public health and building healthier communities are key priorities for the city. Through the work of the City of Milwaukee Health Department, we have lowered our teen pregnancy and infant mortality rates, and improved immunization and lead testing rates in the city. Our local restaurants have never been safer and our ability to detect and control infectious disease in the community is at its best.

Tough economic times have also shown us that the need for public health services is increasing. The city saw its largest crowd ever at the 8th Annual Back-to-School Health Fair and the City of Milwaukee Health Department's Women, Infants and Children Program served at least 8,000 clients each month in 2008.

It's no secret that Milwaukee faces challenges, particularly in addressing health disparities. We also know that the social and economic impact of poor health outcomes has a devastating effect on our city. But through innovation and commitment of many partners, we will continue to improve and protect Milwaukee's health.

I encourage all Milwaukee residents to do what they can to make healthier choices and to support public health in their own lives and in our community.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tom Barrett". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Tom Barrett,
Mayor of Milwaukee



Letter from the Commissioner of Health

Since 1867, the City of Milwaukee Health Department has been committed to safeguarding health in our community. Through its work, Milwaukee has experienced significant improvements in a number of key health outcomes. Among those are childhood immunization rates, birth outcomes among high risk pregnant women, and the number of children with high blood lead level readings.

As the state's largest health department, we continue to build a healthier community through our disease control and environmental health surveillance, family and community health programs and our laboratory services.

In 2008, the City of Milwaukee Health Department quenched a measles outbreak, ensured school readiness for more than 4000 individuals and helped nearly 4,200 clients sign up for health insurance.

We also administered more than 30,000 immunizations to residents and conducted nearly 1,800 health inspections at restaurants and large sports and entertainment facilities throughout the city.

The accomplishments highlighted in this report by no means represent all Health Department activities, but each symbolizes a snapshot of the work we do each day to protect the health of the citizens and visitors to the City of Milwaukee.

Transforming the health of our community requires dedication and commitment to doing whatever it takes to bring about change. Protecting your health is our commitment, and the City of Milwaukee Health Department is dedicated to our job.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Bevan K. Baker". The signature is stylized with large, flowing loops.

Bevan K. Baker, FACHE
Commissioner of Health

Table of Contents

Letter from the Mayori

Letter from the Commissioner of Health ii

Table of Contentsiii

Disease Control and Environmental Health

 Immunizations1

 Measles Response2

 Sexually Transmitted Disease (STD) Prevention2

 Food Inspection3

 Weights and Measures4

 Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program5

Family and Community Health

 Infant Mortality6

 Teen Pregnancy Reduction6

 Plain Talk Pregnancy Prevention Program7

 Women, Infants, and Children Program (WIC)8

 Well Woman Program8

Public Health Laboratories9

Community Health Programs

 Back-to-School Health Fair10

Office of Violence Prevention

 Milwaukee Commission on Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault ..12

 Mayors Against Illegal Guns13

Financial Information14

MHD location informationBack Cover

The **mission** of the City
of Milwaukee Health
Department is to ensure
that **services** are
available to **enhance**
the **health** of
individuals
and **families**,
promote healthy
neighborhoods,
and safeguard the health
of the Milwaukee
community.

Disease Control and Environmental Health

Immunizations

Immunization is one of the most important tools we have to protect our children from disease. Partnerships with key agencies such as the Milwaukee Public Schools (MPS), Wisconsin Division of Public Health, Milwaukee County District Attorney's Office, the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction, and the Boys and Girls Club of Greater Milwaukee have ensured that the majority of MPS students are in compliance with current immunization requirements.

The City of Milwaukee Health Department provides immunizations during weekly walk-in clinics at three neighborhood health centers, special Saturday clinics held throughout the year, and at several additional sites in conjunction with community partners.

In 2008, our public health nurses administered 30,449 immunizations to 11,481 clients.



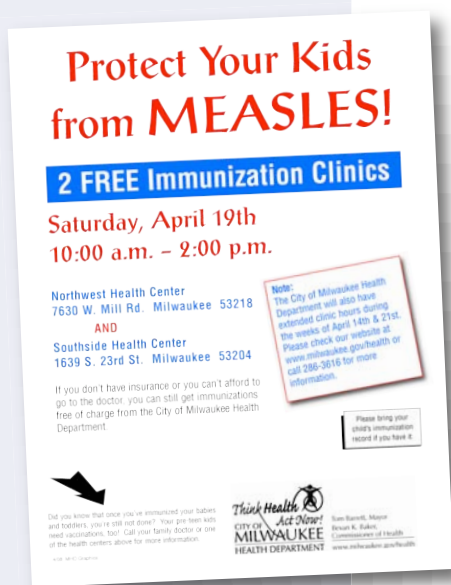
Immunizations are one of the greatest medical achievements of the 20th century. They have controlled the spread of many infectious diseases that were once common in this country, including polio, smallpox and diphtheria.



The most recent statistics show that 83% of MPS students were in compliance during the 2007-2008 school year, compared to 69% the previous year.

"Tracking and responding to disease outbreaks as well as adverse environmental exposures to reduce illness and injury in the community is one of our key goals."

*Paul A. Biedrzycki, Director
Disease Control & Environmental Health*



Disease Control and Environmental Health

Measles Response

The potential for public health emergencies is a very worrisome possibility in today's world. The key to dealing with disaster or unexpected illness is to plan. Though there is no way to project specifics, the City of Milwaukee Health Department has extensive experience in handling emergencies, and that experience enables us to be prepared for catastrophic problems.

In April 2008, the City of Milwaukee Health Department's coordinated action to the discovery of a suspect measles case enabled a quick response that controlled spread of the disease and protected public health. More than 3,500 citizen phone calls were fielded. The department held 11 special measles clinics and administered approximately 1,300 vaccinations.

Sexually Transmitted Disease Prevention

It is well established that sexually transmitted disease (STD) rates are highest nationally in urban areas, and Milwaukee is no exception. The City of Milwaukee Health Department utilizes targeted interventions to decrease STD rates among our most vulnerable and highest risk populations.

In 2008, the City of Milwaukee Health Department implemented an express clinic service system that will greatly increase the number of clients we see each year through our clinics. More than 7,000 clients received services in 2008.

Our management of Milwaukee Alliance for Sexual Health (MASH), a program that addresses the disproportionate impact of STDs and unintended pregnancies on African American youth in Milwaukee, will also increase our opportunities for outreach into the community.



Disease Control and Environmental Health

Food Inspection

Prevention of foodborne illness remains a top priority for the City of Milwaukee Health Department. Regular food inspections allow detection and consequent correction of violations that could spark disease outbreak. Nearly 2,000 inspections of restaurants, taverns and food stores were conducted in 2008. Critical violations such as lack of, or improper hand washing; cross contamination of cooked, ready-to-eat foods with raw food, unwashed or dirty surfaces; or inadequate cooking, holding, reheating and cooling temperatures always require immediate correction at the time of the inspection to protect consumer health.

Want to know how we did?

For the most current Health Inspection Report from the City of Milwaukee Health Department, please call (414) 266-3674 or visit our website at: www.milwaukee.gov/health

Establishment Name: _____

Inspector: _____

Address: _____

Think Health. Just Don't!
CITY OF MILWAUKEE
HEALTH DEPARTMENT
Donna Brown, Director
Department of Health
www.milwaukee.gov/health

In 2008, food inspection reports went public and online. Each establishment is now required to post this placard announcing the online food inspection reports in a place where customers can see it.



Jennifer Zanin demonstrating proper handwashing procedure to food establishment staff

Weights and Measures

The City of Milwaukee Health Department also protects consumers from fraudulent practices through annual licensing and testing of weighing and measuring devices at gas stations and grocery stores throughout Milwaukee. In 2008, the City of Milwaukee Health Department issued more than 3,300 licenses for establishments with food and over 8,000 licenses for weighing and measuring devices at gas stations and grocery stores throughout the city.



Julie Hults Checking temperature of foods in deli case



Bill Leichtnam inspecting mobile food tent setup at Summerfest



Leroy Leadless is part of an educational series used to teach school-aged students about lead.



Regularly wiping windowsills to remove lead dust is one simple, but effective means to reduce the risk of lead poisoning at home.

Disease Control and Environmental Health

Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program

The City of Milwaukee Health Department's Lead Poisoning Prevention Program (CLPPP) is a nationally recognized, award-winning program that has successfully abated approximately 13,000 housing units in our community.

In 2008, the program received two grants that totaled approximately \$6.9 million from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to eliminate lead hazards in homes within the city. These grants will enable the abatement of more than 1,100 housing units over the next three years through well-developed partnerships and a strong commitment by Milwaukee rental property owners. Contracts with community-based agencies will allow for interim control and educational activities to be implemented in targeted neighborhoods.

There are approximately 42,000 Milwaukee housing units in need of lead abatement in targeted neighborhoods. Since May 1997, nearly 13,000 of those housing units have been made lead-safe through City of Milwaukee Health Department inspection, enforcement efforts, innovative partnerships and HUD-funded primary prevention subsidies to home and property owners.



MHD Health Educator Andy Budde giving a window lead abatement demonstration to children of MHD staff as a part of Take our Daughters and Sons to Work Day.

Family and Community Health

Infant Mortality

Infant mortality rates have improved in Milwaukee, thanks to the implementation of evidence-based programs that provide intensive one-on-one contact to high risk pregnant women, and meticulous reviews of every infant death that occurs within the city.

In 2008, the City of Milwaukee Health Department announced a historic 20% drop in Milwaukee's infant mortality rate. Still, the city's rate, especially for African American babies, remains far too high. Approximately half of the deaths among babies each year result from prematurity-related complications at birth.

The City of Milwaukee Health Department is dedicated to decreasing the number of infants who die before their first birthday. We oversee a number of initiatives to meet this goal, including our two home visiting programs called Empowering Families of Milwaukee and Nurse Family Partnership that have both shown impressive results in improving birth outcomes.

Clients enrolled in our home visiting programs have half the rates of prematurity and low birthweight compared to the average of all mothers in the eight zip codes where the program operates. Specifically, prematurity and low birthweight rates in the program zip codes average 19% of all births. However, clients enrolled in our programs have average rates of 10% for prematurity and low birthweight.



The City of Milwaukee Health Department provides free Pack 'N Plays® to individuals who are unable to purchase one and who are referred by a community professional such as a case worker or nurse.



Home visiting is a long standing, well-known prevention strategy to improve the health and well-being of women, children, and families, particularly those who are at risk. The City of Milwaukee Health Department has two evidence-based home visiting programs for high risk pregnant women and their children aimed at improving birth outcomes, increasing child health, safety, and development, decreasing child abuse and neglect, and increasing school readiness.



Mayor Tom Barrett, Commissioner of Health Bevan K. Baker, Common Council President Willie L. Hines, Jr. and Milwaukee Public Schools Superintendent William G. Andrekopoulos announced that Milwaukee's teen birth rate was at its lowest level in nearly three decades. They made this announcement at Running Rebels Community Organization, a nonprofit organization located in Milwaukee's central city, that is committed to helping the youth in their neighborhood stay off the street and in school through recreation, discussion groups, and educational field trips.

Milwaukee youth attend a Corn Roast Rally, a unique marketing strategy used to increase participation in the teen pregnancy prevention program Plain Talk.

Family and Community Health

Teen Pregnancy

Setting the standard is a key mission for the City of Milwaukee Health Department. Our unique programming and involvement with the United Way of Greater Milwaukee Teen Pregnancy Prevention Oversight Committee have enabled us to remain at the forefront of change in the community through the creation of the city's first communitywide goal for teen pregnancy prevention – a 50% reduction by 2015.

In late 2008, the City of Milwaukee Health Department announced that Milwaukee's teen birth rate was at its lowest level since 1979, bringing the city one step closer toward meeting its goal. Strong community involvement and strategic partnerships were key to this accomplishment, in addition to implementation of evidence-based education and prevention campaigns, including programs that target boys and parents of adolescents and continuous media messaging.

The City of Milwaukee Health Department has also taken a unique approach to tackling teen pregnancy through our No Condom? No Way! (NCNW) program, a multi-faceted campaign that encourages teens to identify and abstain from high-risk sexual behavior, and promotes correct and consistent condom use among sexually active teens. NCNW offers free, specially packaged "prevention kits" for teens on an anonymous, walk-in basis at dozens of locations throughout the city, including entertainment/music stores and venues, retail clothing and shoe stores, coffee shops, barber shops and beauty salons and body piercing/tattoo parlors.

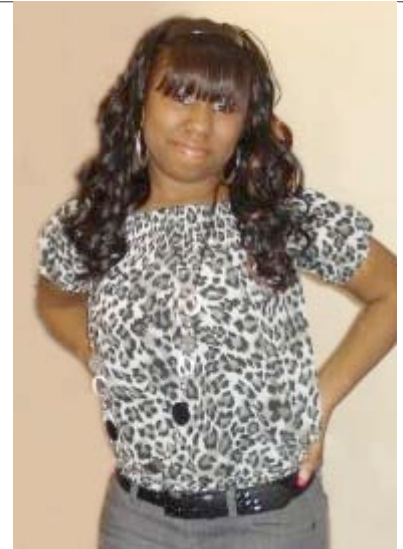


Family and Community Health

Plain Talk

Plain Talk is an innovative approach to reducing teen pregnancy by helping parents develop the skills and tools they need to communicate effectively with their children about abstinence, healthy relationships, and sexuality. The Community Partner outreach staff walk door-to-door in Milwaukee's most at-risk neighborhoods and recruit individuals to be trained as "Askable Adults," trusted individuals who can provide accurate information to teens.

Plain Talk also provides programs tailored to parent/teen meetings for the Best Friends–Best Men pregnancy prevention program within Milwaukee Public Schools, and hosts community activities to boost participation and educational opportunities, including quarterly parent/teen dinners, Corn Roast Rallies and Plain Talk Panel discussions with medical, mental health and law enforcement professionals. Each of these marketing strategies, which are unique to the Milwaukee program, enabled us to gain more participation in the program.



"Plain Talk was a great experience because I learned the importance of abstinence and safe sex. With the facts and information I received, I was able to pass it down to others in a positive way."

Ciara Rhodes

(Ciara was a Summer Youth Ambassador in 2008. She is currently a senior attending high school in Dallas, Texas.)



Mayor Tom Barrett and Commissioner of Health Bevan K. Baker join Plain Talk volunteers after announcing that strong community involvement and strategic partnerships helped lower the city's teen birth rate.



The City of Milwaukee Health Department actively supports breastfeeding as the preferred method of providing nutrition to infants.

"The Family and Community Health Division assists individuals throughout their lifespan, from infants to senior citizens. Our programs use evidence-based prevention strategies to ensure that Milwaukee residents have the services and information they need to live a long and healthy life."

*Anna C. Benton, Director
Family and Community Health Services*

Family and Community Health

WIC

The Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Program is a special supplemental nutrition program that promotes and maintains the health and well-being of nutritionally at-risk pregnant, breastfeeding and postpartum women, and their infants and children. WIC provides health screening and pregnancy testing; nutrition education; breastfeeding education and support; immunizations; supplemental nutritious foods such as iron-fortified infant formula, milk, eggs, juice, cheese, cereal, and peanut butter or beans; as well as referrals to health care providers and other community agencies. The City of Milwaukee Health Department's WIC program serves an average of 8,000 clients a month.

Well Woman

The Well Woman program works to decrease the mortality rate from breast and cervical cancer in all women in the City of Milwaukee through education, outreach, screening, treatment, community awareness and involvement. The program provides preventive health screening services to low-income women who are uninsured or underinsured. Well Woman also pays for mammograms and Pap tests. In 2008, Well Woman provided a total 1,137 screenings for breast and cervical health to Milwaukee women.

The Second Annual Walk to Protect, Promote and Support Breastfeeding was held during World Breastfeeding Week. Commissioner of Health Bevan K. Baker (not pictured) was the keynote speaker.



Public Health Laboratories

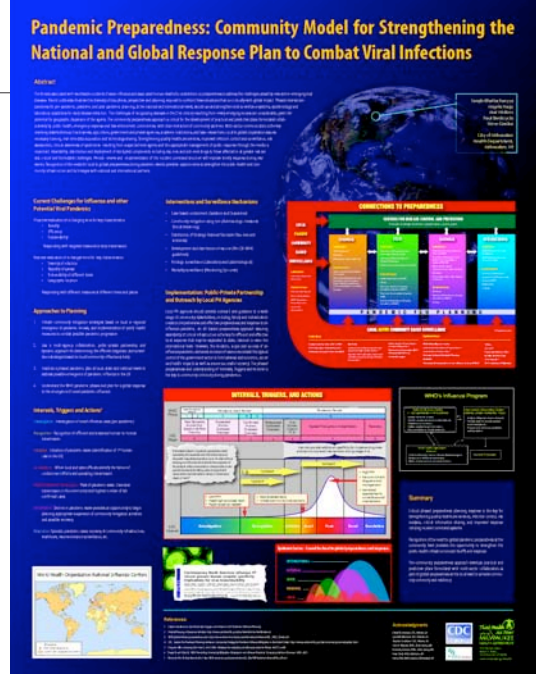
The Public Health Laboratories Division performed approximately 70,000 tests in 2008 in support of departmental programs of communicable and sexually transmitted disease control, water quality, foodborne disease control, childhood lead poisoning control, and emergency/bioterrorism preparedness. Recertification by four federal and state oversight agencies assured quality standards were met.

Several community laboratory collaborations to address public health issues in 2008 included

- i) validating new technology for rapid identification of antibiotic resistant staphylococcus with the Veterans Administration Medical Center and Waukesha Memorial Hospital,
- ii) studying real-time detection of beach water pollution with the Racine Health Department, and
- iii) working with the Blood Research Institute on the nature of the immune response to influenza in the community.

The laboratory participated in surveillance activities by sharing information with the World Health Organization Influenza Surveillance Program, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention programs for gonorrhea resistance and tuberculosis, and with the foodborne disease surveillance national database of bacterial “fingerprints,” known as PulseNet.

City of Milwaukee Health Department investigations of several potential cases of vaccine preventable diseases (e.g., measles) of public impact and consequence to the community relied on laboratory consultation and testing, as did the city wide Shigella outbreak involving child care and family settings, and five Norovirus cluster investigations typically involving institutional settings.



The MHD Lab presented a poster at the World Summit for Antivirals conference in Kunming, China explaining how Milwaukee's Emergency Preparedness strategies can be used as a worldwide model to combat the spread of viral infections and disease.

“In responding to and confirming communicable disease outbreaks in near real-time, local public health laboratory results are not viewed as isolated tests but become part of a prevention plan for the unpredictable, data for the formation of public policy, and preparation and response for public emergencies.”

Steve Gradus, Ph.D., Laboratory Director

Community Health Programs

Back-to-School Health Fair

The City of Milwaukee Health Department's Medical Assistance Outreach Program (MAO) served nearly 4,000 individuals and issued approximately 3,000 book bags full of school supplies at the 8th annual Back-to-School Health Fair. This was an 11% increase from the number of families who were seen at our 2007 health fair.

The event, which is the largest in the city, enables thousands of Milwaukee residents to get their children healthy and ready for school through immunizations, health checks, dental checks, eye exams and vouchers for glasses, nutrition applications for free and reduced lunch, blood lead testing, full physicals and an array of information on other health and nutrition topics.

Each family that visited a majority of the vendors and participated in the services offered at the health fair received a free book bag full of age-appropriate school supplies.

The health fair also served as the site for the official launch of the City of Milwaukee Health Department's Back-to-School immunization campaign called "Super Kids Get Immunized." The Super Kids campaign was promoted by the placement of Milwaukee county transit ads on buses with routes throughout targeted Milwaukee neighborhoods, providing consistent messaging about the importance of getting vaccinated against childhood diseases.



Milwaukee Super Kids are students who protect their bodies against several illnesses through vaccination. The City of Milwaukee Health Department launched the campaign to promote childhood vaccination.

Community Health Programs



Free immunizations and school supplies were given to students who attended the Back-to-School Health Fair.



The Back-to-School Health Fair enables parents to have many of their children's health needs addressed and their questions answered by medical, dental, safety and law enforcement experts in a one-stop-shop setting.

Violence as a Public Health Issue

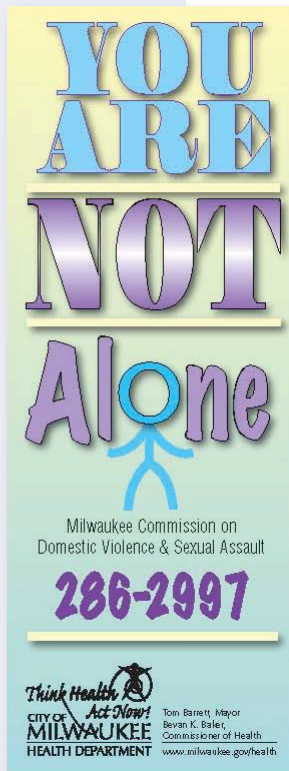
Violence has emerged as one of the central public health problems of our time. It affects people in all stages of life. In 2008, over 16,000 persons were victims of homicide in the United States. Suicides remain a leading cause of death of persons ages 10 and over. In Milwaukee County alone, up to 90% of offenders prosecuted for violent crimes were at one time clients of the child welfare system, or as children witnessed family or neighborhood violence. In all of its forms, violence profoundly impacts the overall health of cities.

The City of Milwaukee Health Department Office of Violence Prevention's strength and imperative is in community and population-based prevention. It is focused on preventing violence before it is initiated, and ensuring the availability of and access to critical services for those at risk, as well as for those who have experienced violence. A public health approach is a systematic process that promotes healthy behaviors and environments, and reduces the likelihood or frequency of violence.

Milwaukee Commission on Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault

The Milwaukee Commission on Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault has been operating as a task force on domestic violence and sexual assault for more than 30 years, and is built on a collaborative model. Commission membership is comprised of 33 formally appointed members representing government agencies such as the Mayor's office, the Milwaukee Police Department, the District Attorney's Office, Milwaukee Public Schools, the Wisconsin State Department of Corrections, Milwaukee County Judiciary, the Bureau of Child Welfare, experts and advocates in the field, survivors of abuse and assault, community partners and non-profit agencies.

Like the Violence Against Women movement, the Commission has grown from an initial strong focus on crisis-based advocacy to a broader sense that advocacy must encompass the entire spectrum – from primary prevention through crisis response and healing. By way of innovative collaborations, the Commission is steadfastly working to identify primary prevention opportunities in our schools, our neighborhoods, our faith communities, with our underserved populations, and in our health care systems.



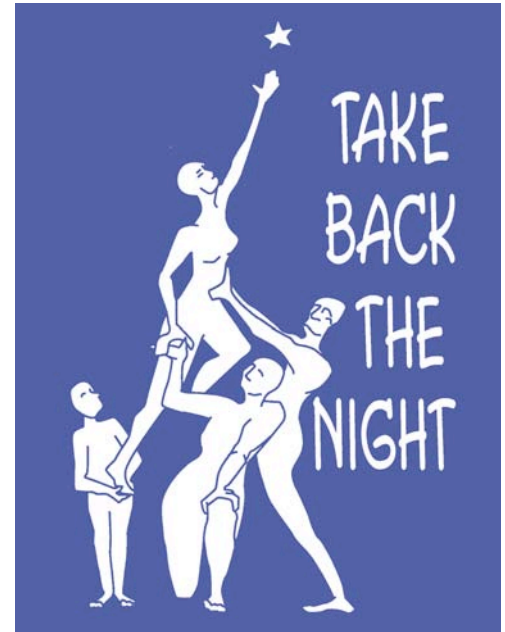
Violence as a Public Health Issue

In 2008, the Commission began a partnership with IndependenceFirst, Sojourner Family Peace Center, and the Milwaukee County Office of Disability Services to improve access to services for survivors of abuse and assaults. The Commission also implemented significant training activities for health care providers who may see patients experiencing abuse and assault. This initiative grew out of the Domestic Violence Hospital Consortium – a prevention and intervention partnership of the major Milwaukee hospital systems, Sojourner Family Peace Center and the City of Milwaukee Health Department.

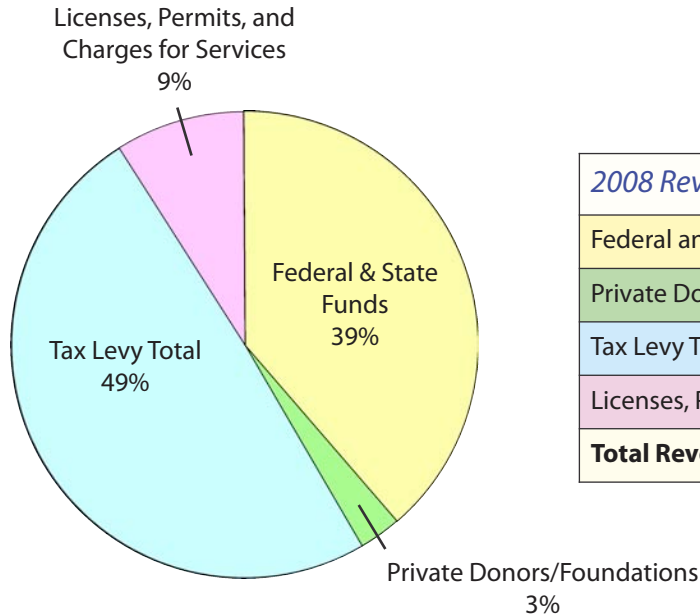
Mayors Against Illegal Guns

Firearms are the second leading cause of injury-related death in the United States. An estimated two non-fatal injuries occur for every death. Many of these deaths and injuries result from conflicts in which individuals are illegally carrying a gun. Mayor Barrett and Commissioner Baker believe that health professionals must be on the front lines as leaders of prevention and education strategies.

In fall of 2008, the City of Milwaukee Health Department was one of four cities in the U.S. funded by a grant from The Joyce Foundation to develop and implement strategies to stem the flow of illegal guns into our city. In conjunction with the national Mayors Against Illegal Guns, a coalition of over 500 U.S. mayors, Office of Violence Prevention firearm staff is responsible for the planning and coordination of gun violence prevention, illegal gun-related initiatives, and public education efforts in the City of Milwaukee and State of Wisconsin.

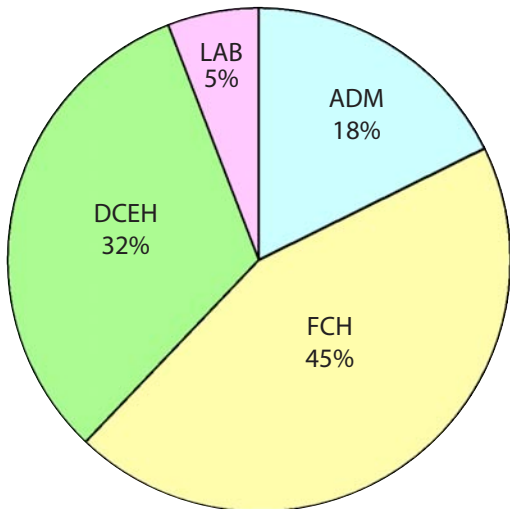


Financial Information



2008 Revenue Summary

Federal and State Funds	\$11,256,044
Private Donors/Foundations	\$846,645
Tax Levy Total	\$14,371,108
Licenses, Permits and Charges for Services	\$2,630,171
Total Revenue	\$29,103,968



2008 City of Milwaukee Health Department Expenditures by Division (All Funding Sources)

Administration	\$4,699,955
Family and Community Health	\$11,859,932
Disease Control and Environmental Health	\$8,405,553
Public Health Laboratories	\$1,509,789
Total	\$26,475,229

LOCATIONS

KEENAN HEALTH CENTER

3200 N 36th ST • 53206

NORTHWEST HEALTH CENTER

7630 W Mill RD • 53218

SOUTHSIDE HEALTH CENTER

1639 S 23RD ST • 53204

ZEIDLER MUNICIPAL BLDG

841 N BROADWAY • 53202

